

a delay circuit for delaying said input random NRZ signal by a value of $(T-\delta T)$, where δT is a value less than T , and T is a period of said input random NRZ signal, and outputting a delayed signal; and

a combination of at least one multiplier circuit and a subtractor circuit, which combination performs a mathematical operation on said input random NRZ signal, said delayed signal, and said second signal to produce an output signal having a DC voltage component corresponding to said phase difference;

wherein said second signal is the same as said input random NRZ signal but differing in phase therefrom by an angle θ .

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are now pending in this application. New claims 8-15 have been added to provide applicants with a scope of protection more commensurate with the disclosure. The Office action requires election from among four purportedly distinct species of the invention: (1) Figs. 1 and 11; (2) Fig. 4; (3) Fig. 6; and (4) Fig. 9. Applicants disagree with the characterization in the Office action of which of the pending claims reads on which drawing figure. Claim 1 applies to Figs. 4 and 6 as well as Figs. 1 and 11, and claim 2 applies to Figs. 1 and 6.

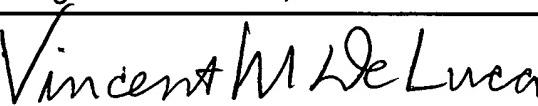
In response to the election requirement, new independent claim 8 has been added; which is generic to all embodiments as disclosed in Figs. 1, 4, 6, 9 and 11, and dependent claims 9-15 which link the various embodiments to the generic claim 8. For example, claim 9 applies to Figs. 1, 4, 6 and 9; dependent claim 10 and independent claim 15 apply to Fig. 11; claim 11 applies to Fig. 9; claims 12 and 13 apply to Fig. 6, and claim 14 applies to Fig. 4.

To comply with the election/restriction requirement, Applicants elect the species of Figs. 1 and 11, which includes claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 15. Upon allowance of claim 8, Applicants will be entitled to examination of the remaining claims 3-5 and 11-14.

Serial No. 10/088,205
May 19, 2003
Page 4

Early and favorable consideration on the merits is requested.

Please charge any fee or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17
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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
NAME AND REG. NUMBER	Vincent M. DeLuca Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 32,408				
SIGNATURE			DATE	19 MAY 03	
Address	Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck 1425 K Street, N.W., Suite 800				
City	Washington	State	D.C.	Zip Code	20005
Country	U.S.A.	Telephone	202-783-6040	Fax	202-783-6031